



Sixty-Six Years of Appreciating and Serving Our Members

Coweta-Fayette EMC's 66th Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day, held October 12 at the cooperative headquarters, was a wonderful opportunity for our Team to visit with Members. It's always a pleasure to meet all of you and to see your families enjoying the events our great employees have planned. The weather was spectacular, and we thank you for stopping by.

At this year's gathering, Members voted almost unanimously to approve bylaw changes making it possible to offer additional voting options at future annual meetings. These voting options include mail-in and electronic balloting, as well as a continuation of on-site voting (but allowing for Members to immediately cast ballots, instead of waiting for the business meeting to begin). To further streamline the process in terms of accuracy and efficiency, cutting-edge scanning machines will be used to count paper ballots electronically next year.

In this month's Powerlines, you will find important information about our new Futura electronic mapping system and the helpful outage data it provides online at utility.org. We did extensive due diligence prior to using this system to ensure it would provide the most benefit to our employees and Members. Futura offers a state-of-the-art software package developed by Southeastern Data Cooperative (SEDC), the company that provides our utility software and accounting, billing, capital credit and work order systems. It is fully integrated with our other SEDC systems, and this means every piece works seamlessly together to produce excellent results. Our employees continue to embrace technology to serve you faster and better.

We have much to be proud of in our area. The completion of a new West Georgia Technical College campus and the beginning of construction on a new University of West Georgia campus, both in Newnan, is fantastic. Also, the continued growth in healthcare facilities and providers is exciting and clearly dem-

onstrates that prosperity's front door is wide open in Coweta-Fayette EMC's service territory.

Our area is also fortunate to have excellent school system superintendents. For example, I recently had the honor to talk to and gain insight from Dr. Steve Barker (Coweta) and Dr. Joseph Barrow (Fayette). Both of these great leaders, as well as other local educators, understand what schools need today. More importantly, they both exhibit "future vision" regarding what teachers will need to provide students tomorrow to compete in a world economy where real-time information and reactions are required to be competitive. It is about

building upon the basics, but refining and expanding them to fit a changing business world landscape. Our cooperative fully supports each county's Board of Education in their efforts to provide the most rewarding scholastic experience possible.

On a related note, a Fayette County "visioning process" is currently in the works, and every effort has been made to include all community groups in this county-wide effort. An initiative of such magnitude and importance has not happened in Fayette County since 1988, when the "Fayette '93" five-year plan was developed. As a result, the organization that is now Piedmont Fayette Hospital was supported and built. The opportunity to once again produce a successful vision plan is at hand, and Coweta-Fayette EMC supports the diverse efforts that will be needed. It is a great challenge to define a community's goals and to ensure the expectations represent the majority view in Fayette County, but the reward will provide exponential benefits to our children and future generations. Please contact the Fayette Chamber of Commerce if you or your organization would like to participate in the visioning process.

For the Team,

Anthony H. Sinclair "Tony"

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Growing Academic Excellence: West Georgia Technical College Puts Down Roots

As Thanksgiving approaches and students delve further into schoolbooks, Coweta-Fayette EMC would like to show heartfelt appreciation for one local educational institution that has gone above and beyond to make a big impact in our community: West Georgia Technical College (WGTC).



The WGTC Foundation-funded “Newnan Hospital, Inc. Allied Health Services Building” is one of two buildings at the new West Georgia Tech site.

The thriving two-year school, a member of the Technical College System of Georgia, currently serves the expanding needs of Carroll, Coweta, Douglas, Haralson, Heard, Meriwether and Troup Counties. With over 110 approved programs of study, WGTC seeks to meet the varied requirements of students, businesses, industries and many others in our quickly developing area of the state.

In September, WGTC cut the ribbon on a brand-new stand-alone facility in Coweta after years of sharing space with Newnan’s Central Educational Center (CEC), a joint venture between businesses and schools.

“We at West Georgia Tech could not be more excited about our strengthened presence in Coweta County,” WGTC President Dr. Skip Sullivan said. “This new campus allows us to radically expand our program offerings and show this community the very best of what West Georgia Technical College has to offer.”

WGTC will continue to have a direct impact on area economic development by providing a skilled workforce for new and existing employers. Through state-of-the-art technology and top-notch educational resources, the school will enable students to become skillful professionals in their chosen careers. WGTC also hopes their tradi-



WGTC board members and trustees, as well as state and local dignitaries, cut the ribbon to the new Coweta campus on Turkey Creek Road.

tion of accessibility and affordability will make our community a better place to live

“We encourage residents to stop by and look around. From a public library to a full-service bookstore, beautiful community room and inviting student center, we know this campus will make them proud,” Sullivan said.

Last year, Coweta-Fayette EMC provided funding to the WGTC Foundation to assist in the completion of the new campus on 38 acres of prime real estate donated by Orchard Hills Golf Properties, LLC along I-85 at Turkey Creek Road.

“We believe in West Georgia Technical College and the tremendous opportunities this institution can bring to our area,” said Coweta-Fayette CEO Anthony “Tony” Sinclair. “Skip and his team have already done amazing things in our community, and I can’t wait to see what the future holds.”

After months of construction, the finished West Georgia Technical College site consists of two buildings – one, the WGTC Foundation-funded “Newnan Hospital, Inc. Allied Health Services Building,” and another, a state-funded general classroom facility.



Nursing students and instructors practice in state-of-the-art classrooms designed to simulate real-world hospital settings.

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A Powerful Bond: Sharing the Light and Making Memories with Costa Rican Visitors

No matter how you speak or with what accent the words are formed, connections between international co-ops are universal: the language of light and the spark of camaraderie trump any barriers that may exist.

To solidify that bond, five representatives from Coopéguanacaste – Coweta-Fayette EMC's sister cooperative in Costa Rica – visited their American counterparts in September to learn technical best practices, share electric utility knowledge and enjoy our culture and local highlights.

The group – including two linemen, a supervisor and two engineers – traveled here to shadow and train alongside crews, technicians and other personnel (at Carroll EMC in Carrollton and Flint Energies in Warner Robins, as well as Coweta-Fayette), discuss safe construction, work with energized lines and demonstrate techniques used at their own co-op.

Jorge Gutiérrez Matarrita and Denis Matarrita Villarreal, both linemen, and Greddy Zeledón Díaz, a supervisor, worked September 9-20 with Coweta-Fayette's overhead "hot line" crews to become familiar

with energized line work. Carlos Cascante Sánchez and Roberto González Calderón, both engineers, visited September 9-13 to train on the EMC's data control system and observe underground wire installation.

During their visit, the group enjoyed learning and working but also shopping, forging life-long friendships, going to a Braves game and seeing the Georgia Aquarium.

EMC Engineering Vice President Chris Stephens said the opportunity for international cooperatives to interact with an American cooperative, and vice versa, is an invaluable experience.

"It's important to continue working together to exchange information, ideas and differences in culture – a combination that makes us all better people," he said.

Coweta-Fayette and Coopéguanacaste, an electric cooperative serving the territory around Nicoya, Costa Rica, have been sister cooperatives for ten years, largely due to the EMC's involvement in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International Foundation.

